

Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

**EP 0 647 439 A3**

(12)

**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
23.04.1997 Bulletin 1997/17

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup>: **A61F 2/06**, A61F 2/28,  
A61L 27/00

(43) Date of publication A2:  
12.04.1995 Bulletin 1995/15

(21) Application number: **94306432.9**

(22) Date of filing: **01.09.1994**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GRIE IT LI LU MC NL  
PT SE**

(30) Priority: **08.10.1993 US 134260**

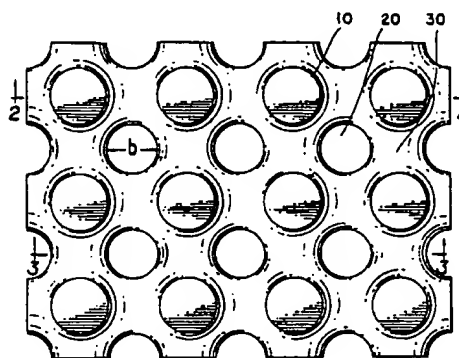
(71) Applicant: **INTERPORE INTERNATIONAL**  
Irvine, California 92718 (US)

(72) Inventor: **White, Eugene W.**  
Rossiter, Pennsylvania 15772 (US)

(74) Representative: **Milhench, Howard Leslie et al**  
**R.G.C. Jenkins & Co.**  
26 Caxton Street  
London SW1H 0RJ (GB)

**(54) Porous articles and methods for producing same**

(57) A porous mesh for use in forming articles comprising a network of pores and protrusions. The porous mesh has a specifically delineated mesh structure having a pore/protrusion size between 25 and 1500 microns and the pore structure is based on a uniform distribution of pores and protrusions on a cast or molded sheet wherein said pores and protrusions have similar effective diameters. The resulting material is advantageously applied to several bio-medical applications, including reconstructive surgery and arterial replacement.



**FIG. 1**

**EP 0 647 439 A3**



European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 94 30 6432

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	EP 0 420 542 A (PFIZER HOSPITAL PRODUCTS GROUP, INC.) * column 7, line 27 - line 33; figures 1,7 *	1	A61F2/06 A61F2/28 A61L27/00
A	EP 0 359 575 A (UNIV CLEMSON) * abstract; figures 1-3 *	1,10	
A	EP 0 259 536 A (BAXTER TRAVENOL LAB) * abstract; figures 2,3 *	1	
A	US 4 550 448 A (KENNA ROBERT V) * abstract; figure 2 *	1,10,14	
A	EP 0 190 422 A (SULZER AG) * figures 1,2 *	1,10,14	
A	WO 87 07495 A (COORS BIOMEDICAL CO) * abstract; figure 4 *	1	
A	US 4 329 385 A (BANKS BRUCE A ET AL) * abstract; figures *	1,6	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
P,A	EP 0 566 427 A (KYOCERA CORP) * the whole document *	1,10,14	A61F A61L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 14 February 1997	Examiner Kanal, P
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone  Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category  A : technological background  O : non-written disclosure  P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention  E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date  D : document cited in the application  L : document cited for other reasons  &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 150 (3.8.92) (P0401)